

## MEMORANDUM

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Agenda Item No. 3(E)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

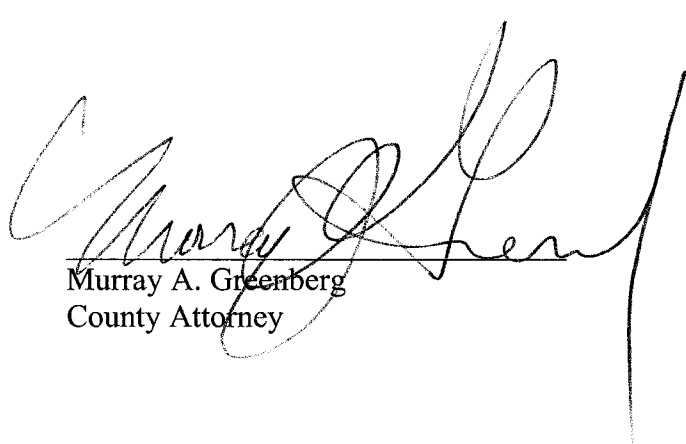
**DATE:** January 17, 2006

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution instructing  
County Manager to evaluate  
feasibility of converting water  
treatment plants to alternative  
chemicals other than  
chlorine

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Senator Javier D. Souto and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

MAG/bw



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** February 7, 2006

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No.

Please note any items checked.

- \_\_\_\_\_ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- \_\_\_\_\_ Budget required
- \_\_\_\_\_ Statement of fiscal impact required
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- \_\_\_\_\_ No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

Agenda Item No.

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

Override \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF CONVERTING THE COUNTY'S EXISTING WATER TREATMENT PLANTS TO USE CHEMICALS WHICH PRESENT A MINIMAL RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH IF RELEASED; TO EVALUATE THE RELATIVE RISK OF USING THESE CHEMICALS VERSUS CONTINUED USE OF CHLORINE GAS; TO EVALUATE THE EXISTING SECURITY AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS IN LIGHT OF THESE RISKS; AND TO EVALUATE WAYS TO MINIMIZE THE USE OF CHLORINE GAS IN MUNICIPAL FACILITIES COUNTY-WIDE

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department uses large volumes of chlorine gas and other chemicals to purify water at the County's water treatment plants; and

**WHEREAS**, chlorine gas can present a serious danger to human health if released into the air either accidentally or intentionally; and

**WHEREAS**, were the chlorine gas used at a County water treatment plant to be released into the air, it would cause a cloud which would be toxic up to fourteen miles from the point of discharge, would kill tens of thousands of people, and would injure hundreds of thousands of people; and

**WHEREAS**, alternative chemicals exist which could be used to purify water which are not toxic to people if released, including hypochloride; and

**WHEREAS**, converting the County's existing water treatment plants to use alternative chemicals such as hypochloride may cost millions of dollars but would eliminate the risk of a catastrophic release of chlorine gas and attendant loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County is a possible target of terrorist attack,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board hereby directs the County Manager to evaluate the feasibility of converting the County's existing water treatment plants such that these plants utilize chemicals which present a minimal risk to human health if released; and to evaluate the relative risk of using these chemicals versus continued use of chlorine gas; to evaluate the existing security at the water treatment plants in light of these risks; and to evaluate options for minimizing the use of chlorine in municipalities within Miami-Dade County. The County Manager shall report the results of these evaluations no later than ninety days from the date of this resolution.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Senator Javier D. Souto and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Audrey M. Edmonson	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dorrian D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



David M. Murray

5